

## EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 24, 2009*

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES

Bill Number: H.R. 2647

Account: Research and Development, Defense Wide, Joint Experimentation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Office of Commonwealth Preparedness, Commonwealth of Virginia

Address of Requesting Entity: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23218

Description of Request: Provides \$2,700,000 for a Tidewater Full-Scale Exercise, to enhance the Commonwealth of Virginia's interdiction, response and recovery capabilities to a WMD event through the conduct of a multi-agency, maritime Full-Scale Exercise, utilizing the experience and unique capabilities of the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Asymmetric Warfens (CAW) and Old Dominion University's Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center (VMASC).

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES

Bill Number: H.R. 2647

Account: Military Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Lee

Address of Requesting Entity: 3901 A Avenue, Fort Lee, VA, 23801

Description of Request: Provides \$5,000,000 in the Defense Access Road (DAR) Program which provides a means for the military to pay a share of the cost of public highway improvements necessary to mitigate an unusual impact of a defense activity. This project would fund a roundabout at Adams Avenue at the entrance to Fort Lee to alleviate traffic congestion and improve vehicular and pedestrian safety, following the installation's growth resulting from the 2005 BRAC Round.

# INTRODUCING THE FOREIGN ADOPTED CHILDREN EQUALITY ACT OF 2009

**HON. JOHN BOOZMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 24, 2009*

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, today my colleague Rep. DIANE WATSON and I are introducing the Foreign Adopted Children Equality Act of 2009. This bicameral, bi-partisan bill is designed to improve upon the Child Citizenship Act of 2000, which was enacted to provide automatic U.S. citizenship to internationally adopted children of American citizens.

International adoption has been a rewarding experience for many families across the United States. However, it is a process that is stressful, complicated, and costly. The FACE Act is intended to cut through some of the

paper work and to treat internationally adopted children as we treat children born abroad to American citizens.

Under the Child Citizenship Act, an internationally adopted child of a U.S. citizen receives U.S. citizenship once the child enters the U.S. to reside permanently. Once in the U.S., the child then has to go through the naturalization process. The FACE Act is intended to improve this process in many ways.

First, it would amend the CCA so that once an international adoption is completed by an American citizen and the adopted child is determined to be adoptable under U.S. law, citizenship would attach. Therefore, instead of parents having to apply for a costly visa to bring their newly adopted child home to the United States, they would apply for a U.S. passport and Consular Report of Birth, making the process that of what is required from American citizen parents whose child is born while abroad. Passports are much less expensive than visas, and once in the U.S., the passport and Consular Report of birth would serve as proof of U.S. citizenship streamlining the application process for a social security card, filing for the adoption tax credit or even enrolling the child into school thus eliminating additional paperwork burdens for these new parents.

In addition, the FACE Act allows for internationally adopted children who are now over the age of 18 and who were not naturalized by their adoptive parents, to apply for and receive citizenship without going through the naturalization process, if they so desire. Unfortunately there are many cases where adoptive parents failed to naturalize their internationally adoptive children prior to their 18th birthdays and prior to passage of the CCA in 2000. Many of these children grow up believing they are U.S. citizens only to find out they are not when they try to register to vote, enlist in the military, or apply for college. There are even cases of these children being deported to their country of origins, where they do not speak the native language nor know the culture, for committing misdemeanors. This act seeks to rectify this situation and give these children the privilege of two heritages—that of their country of origin and of their new home, the United States.

Finally, this act seeks to amend Section 301 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the section of law that provides U.S. citizenship from birth to biological children of American citizens who are born abroad. The FACE act would add internationally adopted children of American citizens to this section providing them citizenship from birth. Thus, internationally adopted children would be given the same opportunities given to American children born abroad, such as the chance to run for President.

Together, these changes would finally treat internationally adopted children of American citizens as children of American citizens instead of as immigrants and would provide them equality with biological children born abroad to American citizens.

## A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO EDWIN G. SUAREZ

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 24, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise with great sadness as I remember the life of my good friend and former Rangel Staff Alumni, Edwin G. Suarez. As I speak with profound sorrow, I ascend to celebrate a life well lived and to remember with fondness the accomplishments of a remarkable man who, over his many years, etched his name in history as a visionary and innovator who enriched and transformed housing projects and programs in my beloved East Harlem and the City of New York.

Edwin, a man whose life, to a remarkable degree, embodied the reverie of the American dream, was a great man of distinction which reflected his grand Puerto Rican heritage. Born on August 13, 1940, Edwin was a longtime community leader who devoted many years to the betterment of East Harlem. He was born and raised in Manhattan, as the only son of Avelino Suárez and Julia González Suarez and dedicated his life to giving back to his beloved city as an urban planner dedicated to doing his part to ensure safe and affordable housing for all.

In his capacity as a housing manager for the City of New York, and with the NAACP as a sponsor, Edwin was able to travel the world in order to confer with his counterparts in great urban centers, including those in Japan, Ecuador, Italy, France, Holland and Scandinavia. He returned from these fact-finding missions with critical information used to improve the various housing projects and programs in New York City's East Harlem community.

Edwin proceeded to touch more lives when he entered the political arena as an elected District Leader of the 68th New York State Assembly District, Part B. He also served as my Special Legislative Assistant and served as my Congressional Liaison to my East Harlem constituents, a position he served with a tremendous sense of professionalism. He went on to serve on numerous community and municipal boards, including President of the Metro North Housing and Development Corporation, and Vice President of the Union Settlement Federal Credit Union.

The death of Edwin Suarez on June 20, 2006, brought immense sorrow and loss to his family and friends, countless community leaders and colleagues in government, and me personally. He is survived by his three children, Darlene Suárez Casey, Edwin Suárez II and Desiree J. Suárez; his only grandchild, Jasmine Suárez Osorio van Wijgerden, and his former wife, Josephine Suárez Reyes. Such a benevolent amalgamation of intellect, steadfastness, and vigor as that demonstrated by Edwin over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others will greatly be missed.

This past weekend, on June 20, 2009, Edwin was memorialized by those that loved and cherished him with the renaming of the Northwest corner of East 101st Street and First Avenue in my district. It is my hope that this act will help preserve the memory of this remarkable man, not only for the benefit of those who knew him but for all who value the promise of America.